



Air Force Plant 4

Operated by Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems, Fort Worth, Texas

Fact Sheet

Aeronautical Systems Center • Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio • March 1999 • PAM 99-047

USGS to Conduct Fish Tissue Sampling

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Texas Department of Health plan a fish tissue sampling project, to take place at Lake Worth the week of March 29, 1999. This sampling is in response to an indeterminant finding identified in the recently published *Public Health Assessment*.

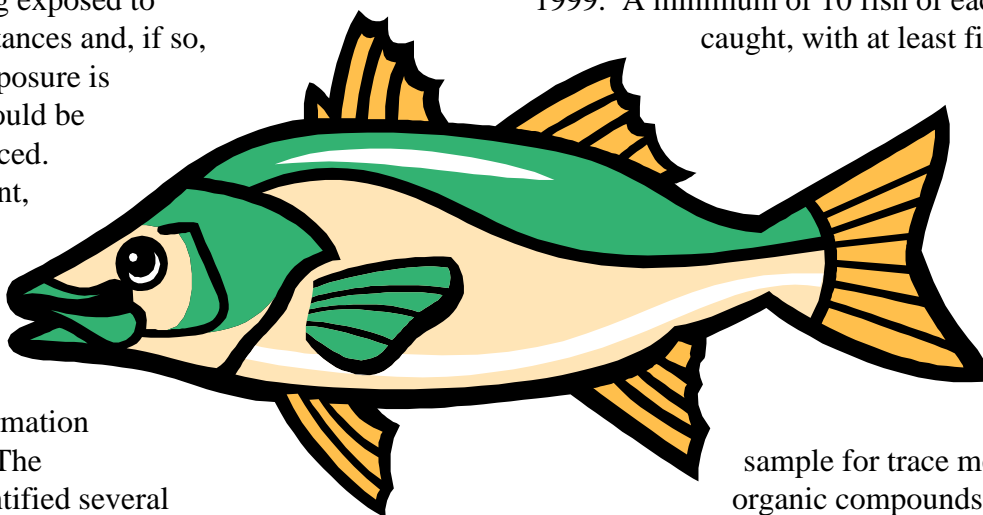
In July 1998, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), in conjunction with the Texas Department of Health (TDH), published the *Public Health Assessment* for the Air Force Plant 4 area. The aim of the assessment is to determine if people are being exposed to hazardous substances and, if so, whether that exposure is harmful and should be stopped or reduced. In the assessment, the ATSDR and TDH evaluated all relevant environmental and health information about the site. The assessment identified several situations which may allow people to come into contact with contaminants in the foodchain, sediment, surface water, soil and groundwater. The overall evaluation concluded that AFP 4 presents no apparent public health threat, however, it also described an area that requires additional investigation.

The assessment identifies an indeterminate public health hazard at AFP 4. The term *indeterminate public health hazard*, as used here, refers to the possibility of contamination finding its way through the aquatic foodchain and into Lake Worth's edible

fish, such as large mouth bass, carp, drum, catfish and buffalo fish. These fish may be susceptible to absorption in their fatty tissue of the types of contamination found in the AFP 4 area. Because long term exposure to the contaminants could pose a public health hazard, the ATSDR and TDH recommend that edible fish tissues be collected from Lake Worth for analysis.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) will collect samples of each species for analysis, starting the week of March 29, 1999. A minimum of 10 fish of each species will be caught, with at least five of those from

the area adjacent to the confluence of Meandering Road Creek and Lake Worth. The USGS's National Water Quality Laboratory will analyze tissues from each



sample for trace metals and certain organic compounds. A report of the findings will be sent to the TDH. The USGS will then provide the Air Force with an Open-File Report on the project, probably by late September 1999.

The Public Health Assessment determined that the other possible exposure situations, such as contamination of sediment, surface water, and air, present no apparent health hazard to the public. Although people may indeed come into contact with contamination, it is unlikely that this contact would be of any health concern. For example, exposure to contamination in sediments would typically be short

term and infrequent, and actual exposure through skin contact or incidental ingestion would be limited. Concentrations of contaminants in surface water are low and, with the exception of silver, below health based screening levels. Air contaminant concentrations were well below those that would pose a public health hazard.

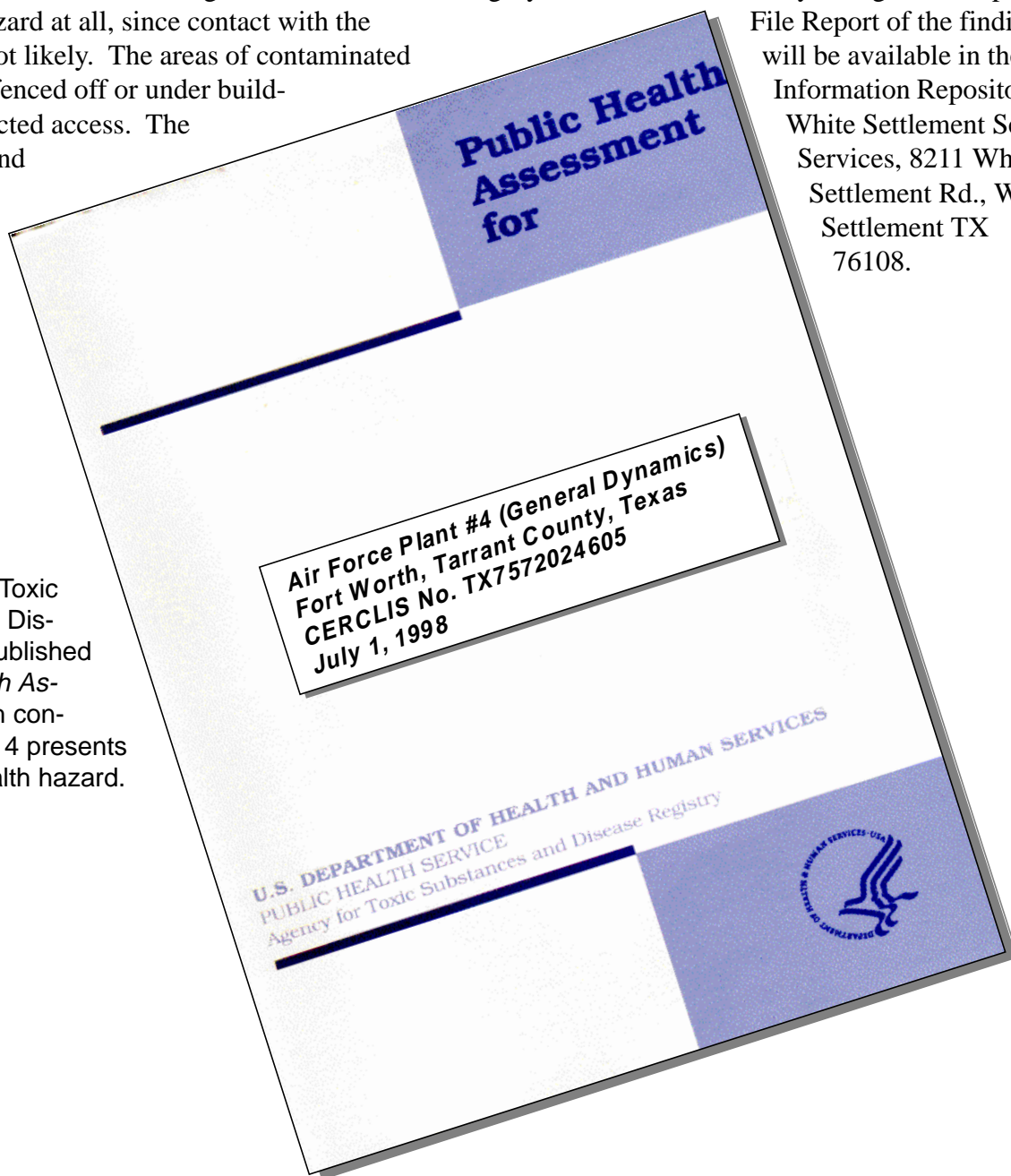
*I*n addition, the assessment determined that contamination of soil and groundwater poses no health hazard at all, since contact with the contamination is not likely. The areas of contaminated soil in Plant 4 are fenced off or under buildings, or have restricted access. The contaminated ground water beneath the plant is not used for drinking,

bathing or other purposes. Remedial activities reduce the likelihood that the contaminated groundwater will migrate toward city water supply wells.

*I*f the investigation into the indeterminate public health hazard finds that contamination in the edible fish in Lake Worth could be a public health hazard, then limits to fishing or a complete fishing ban may be implemented and the conclusion category for the overall site may change. The Open-

File Report of the findings will be available in the Information Repository at White Settlement Senior Services, 8211 White Settlement Rd., White Settlement TX 76108.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry published the *Public Health Assessment*, which concludes that AFP 4 presents no apparent health hazard.



For more information, please contact John Doecker, remedial project manager, at our toll free number 1-800-982-7248, ext. 416, or Daniel Johnson, environmental public affairs specialist, ext. 346.